

From Classroom to Commencement: Alumni Impact in Action

This past year, nearly 1,200 students across the five schools at UTMB Health received their diplomas, marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication.

As the university celebrates this unforgettable milestone, we also want to shine a spotlight on the vital role that the UTMB Health alumni community plays in the student experience.

Supporting Students



From their first steps onto campus to their final steps across the graduation stage, UTMB Health students benefit greatly from the ongoing support of those who came before them.

For many, this support begins with a scholarship — easing financial burdens and opening doors that might have otherwise remained closed. More than financial aid, scholarships provide encouragement and affirmation, signaling to students that someone believes in their potential and is investing in their future.

"Travel scholarships have been instrumental in my training as a future scientist," said Eldridge Hager, a graduate student in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

"These awards have provided me invaluable development opportunities, preparing me to make an impact in the field of biomedical sciences."

Juan Villareal, a 2024 nursing graduate, echoed this sentiment: "Without alumni support, my nursing education would have been out of my reach."

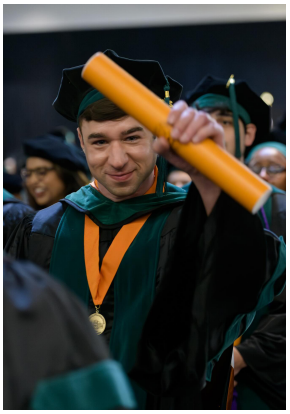
Supporting Schools

Alumni generosity also fuels countless initiatives beyond financial assistance that enhance students' academic journey. This includes access to study guides and digital resources that aid in coursework as well as mentoring opportunities that offer valuable guidance and career advice.



Group photo from the Summer 2025 White Coat Ceremony.





Alumni also lend a helping hand for white coats, pins, student activities and events like Match Day and Opening Ceremonies—all of which enrich the UTMB Health experience in meaningful and lasting ways.

In addition to student-centered support, alumni contributions strengthen the university's academic mission through endowed professorships, chairs and faculty development programs. These gifts help recruit and retain top-tier educators and researchers, ensuring students learn from the best in their fields.

Alumni also advance discovery by supporting innovative research initiatives that lead to new treatments, technologies and approaches to care.

Supporting Legacy

At UTMB Health, students are not simply pursing degrees but becoming part of a rich, growing legacy in medicine—one that began nearly 135 years ago with 23 students and 13 faculty members.

Through alumni engagement, students connect to a larger network of health professionals, both past and present, who share their passion, understand their journey and champion their success.

This robust coalition of dedicated alumni continues to help students bridge the gap from the classroom to commencement, creating a culture where students feel empowered to focus on their studies and future careers.

As each new class of students crosses the stage, they do so not only as graduates but as future alumni, ready to carry forward the legacy of giving back, lifting others just as they were lifted.

If alumni support has made a difference in your journey—or if you're ready to help students thrive—we'd love to hear from you. Contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to explore meaningful ways to make an impact at UTMB.